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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8647
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0232
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3817
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 2293
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0121
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0272
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY 0134
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0155
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4160
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0335
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0583
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0399
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7048
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 0735
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5519
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0810
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 4676
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0280
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 5662
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0013
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 3026
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0535
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0341
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 5718
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2119
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0424
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2213
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 001815

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SUBJECT: MUSHARRAF OFFERS TO HELP ON ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN
DISPUTE

REF: ISLAMABAD 1570

Classified By: Charge Peter Bodde 1.5 (b), (d).

¶1. (C) During an April 20 interview with the Al-Arabiya television network, President Musharraf offered to help ameliorate the Israel-Palestinian impasse any way he could. He volunteered to travel to Jerusalem if the parties involved thought it would be helpful. His offer followed months of his and senior cabinet officials' warning us that televised images of violence in the West Bank and Gaza were feeding extremism and anti-Americanism in Pakistan. In early April, Musharraf told visiting CENTCOM Commander Adm. Fallon that the Israel/Palestinian impasse was the "core problem" facing the Muslim world, including Pakistan. Musharraf was not convinced Arab states fully recognized the degree to which problems in the Middle East were impacting non-Arab Muslim countries.

¶2. (C) (Background: In 2005, Pakistan and Israel publicly acknowledged working to improve bilateral relations, and Pakistani Foreign Minister Kasuri met in Turkey with then Israeli Foreign Minister Sylvan Shalom. The same year, President Musharraf addressed the annual AIPAC Conference in Washington. As the security situation in Gaza deteriorated, any Pakistani outreach to Israel became strictly off-the-radar. End Background.)

13. (C) Comment: Musharraf's offer to travel to Jerusalem apparently is part of his larger Middle East Initiative, designed to encourage moderate Muslim nations (Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Turkey) to play a more constructive role in lowering instability and sectarian strife emanating from Iraq, Lebanon, and Israel/Palestine. Musharraf privately (protect) portrays the importance of stabilizing those areas as an existential issue for his administration. Musharraf reportedly has encouraged a realistic approach to the Israel Palestinian question during his and other Pakistani officials' meetings with representatives of Muslim countries. He complained to Adm. Fallon that some Arab states were failing to take Israel's needs and interests into account, exacerbating the Israel Palestinian problem.

BODDE